

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber for Roll Call Vote no. 13. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 13.

## HONORING COUNCILMEMBER WENDY SKILLMAN

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cotati City Councilmember Wendy Skillman on the occasion of her retirement after more than eight years of dedicated service to our community.

Councilmember Skillman's record as a public servant traces back to 2008, when she first moved to Cotati. As a member of the city's Community and Environment Commission, she organized beloved events including the annual Christmas tree lighting and the ever-popular Pasta Feed and Bingo Night. After more than three years as the Commission's Secretary and later Vice Chair, she assumed the role of Cotati Planning Commissioner, where she developed strategies in cooperation with local businesses and homeowners to grow the city's economy while protecting its small-town charm. Those she worked with appreciated her ability to find common ground and advance solutions that served everyone's interests.

Following her initial foray into city politics, Councilmember Skillman ran a successful campaign for City Council in 2012. Focusing on affordable housing and championing local small businesses, she generated wide-spread community support that carried her to a resounding reelection victory four years later. Throughout her terms, she has prioritized cooperation and compromise, leading to many successes. Under her watch, the city emerged from its financial troubles, not only keeping public services operational, but expanding the Police Department, adding new Public Works employees, and kick-starting recreation programs. Well respected by her fellow Council Members, she served with distinction as the Vice Mayor of Cotati in 2014 and 2019 and as Mayor in 2015 and 2020. Her leadership, dedication, and tenacity will surely be missed by her colleagues and constituents.

Madam Speaker, Councilmember Wendy Skillman exemplifies the very best qualities that our community looks to in a leader. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

## HONORING LONG-TIME PUBLIC SERVANTS IN PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

### HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize four important community leaders in Tucson and Southern Arizona. These public servants have now completed their service to Pima County, Arizona, and they deserve high distinction. They include Mr. Ramon Valadez, Pima County Supervisor; F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder; Bill Staples, Pima County Assessor; and Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney. Each of these distinguished Arizonans has dedicated many years of their lives and their careers to serve our people. They provided security, integrity, dedication, and the highest leadership. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the public service of these exemplary individuals, to wish them good luck in their future endeavors, and to join me in recommending that young leaders seeking careers in public service look to them as models of what it means to live a good life in the service of things larger than oneself.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN PERCY OWENS NORWOOD JR.

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, retired Captain Percy Owens Norwood Jr.

Retired U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Percy Owens Norwood Jr. was born February 14, 1946, in Memphis to Percy and Charlie Lott Norwood. Capt. Norwood of Carrollton, 74, was called to his heavenly home on Friday, November 27, 2020, at Tyler Holmes Memorial Hospital in Winona.

As a young man, Capt. Norwood enlisted in the United States Coast Guard on November 20, 1970. After almost 30 years of outstanding and dedicated service to our nation, he retired with the rank of captain on October 1, 2000. At the time of his retirement, he held three key positions: Commanding officer of Coast Guard Headquarters Support Command, commanding officer of Coast Guard Headquarters staff, and executive officer of Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Percy received numerous personal awards that include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. His nonmilitary awards include the National Image Incorporated Award (1993), the

National Naval Officers Association's (NNOA) Dorie Miller Award (1993), the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award (1995), and the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award (1995). Mr. Norwood was inducted into the Alcorn State University Hall of Honor in 2006 for his outstanding leadership and service and elected by his fellow Alumni as Alcornite of the Year in 2008 as Alcorn State University most distinguished alumnus.

Capt. Norwood leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Bessie Marie Norwood; his children, Angelia Lavette Collins, Kelvin King Shaifer, Lindsey Marie Norwood Carson (Nathaniel), and Matthew Reginald Norwood; his grandchildren Devon, Shy, Nathaniel III, Alexis and Camerin; his great-grandchildren, Alex, Emberly and Zaniyah; his siblings Laura Norwood Davis, Willie Norwood, James Norwood (Rosie) and Ruther Flowers; his sister-in-law, Verna Norwood; his god-sister, Willie Mae Smith; his aunt, Emma Harrison; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy and service of Captain Percy Owens Norwood Jr.

## CALLING FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY

### HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the use of capital punishment in the United States and to call for its abolition.

Capital punishment is an unjust and inhumane practice. It is past time we join developed democracies throughout the world and abolish this barbaric practice.

The death penalty in the United States is deeply unfair and inequitable. It is a sentence disproportionately given to people of color, individuals with mental illness and the economically disadvantaged. Black people make up less than 13 percent of the nation's population while accounting for more than 42 percent of those on death row. And despite the Supreme Court ruling that intellectual disability lessens moral culpability, an estimated five to ten percent of all death row inmates suffer from a severe mental illness. The death penalty is also overwhelmingly imposed on poor people, with 95 percent of death row defendants from underprivileged backgrounds.

The methods of execution used in the United States are unquestionably inhumane. States still allow people to be put to death by hanging, firing squad, electrocution and gas chamber. Although the recent adoption of lethal injection is purportedly more humane, recent botched executions have resulted in agonizing and prolonged deaths for individuals—undeniably a cruel and unusual punishment.

As long as the death penalty exists, innocent individuals will be convicted and sentenced to death. Since 1973, 172 former

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

death-row prisoners have been exonerated of all charges related to the wrongful convictions that had put them on death row. We cannot continue to employ a system of punishment that has such a high risk of taking innocent life.

The United States stands out among our allies and other democracies in its use of the death penalty. Many of our allies consider it a gross violation of human rights. Defending human rights abuses abroad has been a key pillar of U.S. foreign policy, but the continued use of the death penalty at home undermines our global standing and enables other countries to criticize other diplomatic efforts.

Under the Trump Administration's Department of Justice, executions of federal death-row prisoners have recently resumed for the first time since 2003. In the midst of our current public health crisis, the Department of Justice has executed more people in six months than the total number executed over the previous six decades.

Most Americans know that the death penalty does not represent justice in our country. It is cruel, inhumane, arbitrary and clearly discriminatory. It is time for us to finally abolish the death penalty.

### CONDEMNING THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in outrage and sadness at the insurrection and attempted coup we saw in this very building on January 6. There is no doubt this attack was instigated by President Trump and responsibility for the violence rests with him and his supporters who ransacked the People's House.

I'd like to include in the RECORD the following statement from my constituents, the Youngstown Warren Black Caucus write:

The Youngstown Warren Black Caucus is outraged by the act of domestic terrorists at our nations' Capitol Building yesterday. Although we are angry and saddened, we agree with our 44th President Barack Obama's statement that it was not a total surprise.

Donald Trump and many Republican members of Congress who attempted to disenfranchise the votes of 81 million citizens have been encouraging insurrection by their voters. Even after multiple recounts, legal defeats, and explanation of the constitution and how elections are run, Trump continued to spout lies about the election that he lost. He and his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani have been telling their supporters for 2 months that the election was fraudulent and that there was a chance they could change the outcome if people just complained, protested, and demanded they won knowing full well the outcome could not be changed. While the majority of the nation understood that was untrue, their most loyal supporters believed them. For his final act of defiance to democracy, Trump invited thousands of supporters to DC yesterday for a rally and march to the Capitol building to "stop the steal" before Congress would certify the Electoral College votes that have already been certified by every state in the nation. Sadly, they listened to the instructions of these liars and our nations' Capitol building

was breached for the first time since the War of 1812.

Besides the obvious need to punish anyone who broke the law, we believe those who incited this insurrection must be held accountable for the betrayal to our nation. That includes Trump and members of Congress who attempted to throw out the results of the presidential election and Insurrection is a criminal act which is why we join the NAACP, Urban League, and National Action Network in calling for the resignation or removal of Donald Trump. He is anything but a patriot.

Last, but certainly not least, our members are appalled by the continued disparate treatment by law enforcement between white and black Americans. Back in June of 2020 a peaceful protest by Black Lives Matter demonstrators outside the White House was charged by numerous law enforcement entities to clear a block so that Trump could walk across the street and hold a Bible upside down outside a neighborhood church. Conversely, the angry mob of thousands of rioters were met with little resistance. Some Capitol police held the doors open for the rioters, others took pictures with them as they headed towards Congressional Chambers and offices to vandalize, steal, and destroy federal property.

The event made it painfully clear that there are 2 justice systems in America. One for black and brown people and their white allies, and a separate one for domestic terrorists who embrace white supremacy. It is ridiculous that we are still having this conversation 245 years after the founding of this nation. America must live up to her promise of "and justice for all."

I thank the Capitol Police and other law enforcement personnel for their work to protect Members and all who work in the Capitol Complex. However, it is obvious that there were systematic breakdowns in security that need to be addressed. We must get to the bottom of these breakdowns and prevent them from ever happening again.

### HONORING KRISTINE SVINICKI

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I take a few moments to recognize the tremendous career of public service of Ms. Kristine Svinicki, who recently announced that she will step down later this month as Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As the Representative of Idaho's Second Congressional District and Chair and Ranking Member of the House Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee, I have spent my career advocating for the expanded use of safe and reliable nuclear energy. In that effort, I had the distinct pleasure to work closely with Kristine in a number of capacities, and like everyone else who has worked with her, I found her to be a consummate professional and dedicated public servant.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in nuclear engineering, Kristine's career led her to the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy and the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Her time with DOE also included a stop at the Department's Idaho Operation Office in

Idaho Falls. Kristine was later detailed by the DOE to the U.S. Senate where she supported Idaho Senator Latta Craig on a variety of energy issues. After a stint with the Senate Armed Services Committee, in 2007 President George W. Bush nominated Kristine to serve as a Commissioner on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and in 2017, President Donald J. Trump designated her as Chairman.

During her three terms at the NRC, Kristine brought unparalleled knowledge, passion and leadership to her work. Kristine never came to a meeting unprepared, and I always left hearings and meetings with her impressed by her insights and persuasiveness.

As the nuclear industry has faced challenges, the federal government has worked to support the current fleet of reactors as appropriate, to modernize the regulatory process to allow advanced reactor technologies to enter the market and to right-size the staff at the NRC. In all of those issues, Commissioner and Chairman Svinicki brought a steady hand and a constructive "let's get to work" attitude to the process.

Chairman Svinicki's commitment to public service has been exceptional and she is a role model for those who want to serve our government and make an impact in a positive way. Kristine blazed her own trail, and she will leave behind scores of friends, colleagues and coworkers who will miss her intellect, her commitment to public service and her wry sense of humor.

While Kristine was born and raised in Michigan, we in Idaho like to claim her as one of our own. I am so proud of all Kristine has accomplished, and more importantly how she did it. On behalf of so many grateful Americans, I want to say thank you to Kristine for her service and extend my best wishes in the future.

### OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 21

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 21 and its invocation for Vice President MIKE PENCE to activate Section 4 of the 25th Amendment.

The Resolution appears to be ill-conceived, vindictive and disassociated from any factual basis. There is no medical, scientific or other evidence that the President is operating under an infirmity that prevents the faithful execution of our laws. Indeed, no one even so much as asked for such evidence. No independent medical exam was sought. No interviews of cabinet members or testimony was proffered where one or more cabinet members could have presumably attested to some medical or physical infirmity warranting immediate intervention.

While it is true the President has his detractors, almost all of whom support this ill-advised resolution, attacking one's political opponents by invoking the most dramatic and emergency based provisions in the Constitution is reckless and poses serious harm to the Republic. Unfortunately, as it has been brought to the floor, the political bar has been lowered. I voted no as there is no merit to it and it is plainly a vengeful attack at the outgoing President who has been vilified by leftist